

[One typical mistake]

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NAME - Jane K. Leary, 32 Acorn St.

INFORMATION - John Healey, wife and son.

SUBJECT - THE SHOE WORKER OF LYNN. [1938-9?] Mass. [Do Not use?] 1928 (?)

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One typical mistake in the Irish community of Lynn is the use of "Mis' " in place of "Mrs ". ."
Aunt Mary uses this in all her conversation. [?]

"Mis' Ryan comes ta my place a lot and is always bringin' me a bit ta eat a somethin' she's fixed. I always give her something to take home with her too.

"She's got a hard life, Mis' Ryan. Her husband drinks and 'aint he the devil when he's full. And seems ta me her boy won't be a whole lot better. He's the freshest piece I've seen in a long time. Wouldn't I like ta give him a crack or two when I hear him talk ta his mother the way he does. She ain't got no control over him atall. Thinks because his father treats her mean that he kin too. If he wuz my son, I'd show him. Aunt Mary.

"Mis' Ryan's man's good ta provide though, for he's got a good job at the G.E. (General Electric). I guess that's why she stays with him for what would she do? She don't know how ta earn her livin'. But poor thing, I pity her.

"Every time I see her runnin' across the street. I know that somethin's wrong[.?] She always tells me and that helps some, I guess.

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"This boy a hers don't do so well in school either. Wun't mind the Sisters so what did they do but take him out and put him in the Public School? Now I woulda made that boy know he had ta mind. Mark my words. He'll have trouble in the public schools too. A boy's gotta mind in school, if he's goin' ta amount ta somethin'. "And what's more, if he don't learn when he's young, that he can't do jest everything he wants, he's gonna get in trouble when 2 he'd growed up. I can't bear a young one that sasses its mother and thinks he kin do everything he wants.

"An' I don't believe in too much movies for young ones. Movies are made for grown up folks, that is most a them are, and young ones gets the wrong ideas of the things they see. All them gangsters and shootin' and stuff. People ought ta know what kinda show a young one's goin' ta see, 'for they give 'em the money ta go."

Aunt Mary was greatly incensed the other evening when she dropped in to see a neighbor. An old friend of her's was sick and without sufficient funds. [?]

"No need of her bein' poor. Not as long ago her husband died and left her enough ta live on. Now what did she go and do but give one of her daughters a big showy weddin'. I never could see the use a that. She could a used that money better now.

"Now she's got to depend on her son, and he with a wife dead and two children ta bring up. But he's a good son ta her. Said when his wife died that he would not put them two children on her ta bring up. He put them in a Sister's Home up ta ————— they're gettin' a good bringin' up there, taught ta sew an' everything. he pays for 'em and says he'll leave 'em there long as he kin. He's got a good job and that's a good thing fur he supports his mother, well as take care of the money for them two little girls."

The conversation switched to a new baby that arrived last week on Aunt Mary's street.

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"Well sir, " said ["?"] Aunt Mary, that woman up the street with 3 the six children had a another baby last week, an' her husband only workin' part time. I thought I better do somethin' for her, so I went up ta the attic room where I stored the stuff we don't use any more. What do you think I found. Two a them wide flannel petticoats with the embroidered edge on 'em that we used ta think so fine. Well, I just took the gathers and the tucks out a them , where they wuz fastened to the waist, and the tucks out a the skirts and ya oughta see the big pieces of flannel them two petticoats made. and I hemmed 'em, and they made the best and warmest little blankets for that new baby. And wuzn't that mother glad to get 'em?

"I remember when mine wuz small and it sure wuz good ta get a present like that when you're so busy and worried trying ta make what money ya have reach both ends. And them petticoats wan't no use a tall ta me. Gives ya a sorta satisfaction to find a place for somethin' that's layin' idle and got no use. [?]

"I'm makin' a quilt this Christmas. T'aint such a fancy one but it sure is good ' an ' warm. I sewed it up on the machine. [?] It ain't for Jimmie Murray or me 'cause we got more'n enough quilts ta keep us warm . 'till we die. I got some my mother made out in New York 'fore she died. This one I made is for some children I know. They'll get enough toys and this'll help them have happy dreams at night 'cause it'll help ta keep 'em warm. I often think there's too much durn fol de rol give away at Christmas, when folks oughta give people the stuff they need and kin use. I don't give presents atall, 'less I kin give 'em somethin' they kin make good use of. I don't believe in show. "

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The typical Irish mother has a very strong hold on her son's affections and frequently is very reluctant to allow him to be untied from her apron strings. Although very broad on this subject, Aunt Mary reveals evidence of it now and then.

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"My one son's married and he's got one of the sweetest little wives. And I,m glad he's so happy. Those two never say a mean word to each other.

"Jim, my son that's married, likes ta read and that's what he does most every night but Sunday. Then he and his wife go to a show. Fair enough I say, for his wife gets tired settin' in the house. Don't hurt him ta give up his books once in a while.

"Sunday mornings they always take me and Jimmie Murray ta Mass and after that we most always go for a ride. Sometimes they buy us a dinner somewheres. They're good ta us, but then I never interfere none in their buiness. Got no right ta interfere after a child is married. [?]

"My other son ' aint married but he does a lotta gaddin' down town evenings. Gets it natural for I do too, what with my beano and card parties and all the friends I visit.

"But every night when Joe, that's my son that ain't married, comes home, he comes in an sits on the side a my bed and tells me what's goin' on. Seems like neither a us sleep just right 'less he does that.

"Oft' time I get up too, an' we make ourselves a lunch. Sometimes it's 2 o'clock. No matter. I kin always sleep in the morning."